

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
RISK REDUCTION AND COEQUAL GOALS WORKGROUP
THURSDAY, July 8, 2010**

Submitted by Thomas M. Zuckerman

Due to the late notification this submittal should be viewed at this time as a personal statement of Thomas M. Zuckerman. It will be reviewed by the Central Delta Water Agency and the South Delta Water Agency at their next board of directors' meetings and may be modified accordingly. This statement is limited to the topic of risk reduction which I understand to be the focus of the first meeting.

Historically, risk reduction programs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area have been based upon local initiatives. The sponsors of most of the projects have either been local reclamation districts or county flood control districts, all of which have been supported in various degrees by state and federal cost share programs. There is no reason to believe that future projects would be improved by foregoing the local initiative in favor of direct federal or state implemented projects.

There are, however, two important roles for the state and federal governments.

A. Flood Management Plan. Pursuant to SB 5 (Machado) and related state legislation, the Department of Water Resources is currently developing a flood management plan for the Central Valley of California. This plan, once completed, should will describe the Design Flood, incorporating some assumptions about future climate change. Based upon an adopted Design Flood, portions of historical flood plains and current and new flood bypasses will be designated along with their utility for water supply and environmental restoration. Local land use decisions will need to be consistent with these designations.

B. Cost Sharing. Here we are not writing on a "blank slate." Existing cost sharing programs have very effectively supported local reclamation districts and county flood control district projects. Reliable funding for cost sharing programs from the state and federal governments are a necessary ingredient in this process. The local programs understand the need to maintain levees at appropriate degrees of flood risk on all the major islands within the Delta and its up-stream tributaries and the need to restore levees in the event of failure.

The existing programs create an effective "prioritization" by limiting cost sharing based upon the land uses within the levee systems. In other words, agricultural islands are protected by "agricultural levees" whereas islands that protect urban population and important infrastructure are protected by levees based upon lower risk tolerance design and sometimes include additional cost sharing from individual direct beneficiaries. Purchasing flood easements on islands and historical flood plains designated by the flood management plan should be part of this program.

The current process of approval of the state cost sharing by the Central Valley Flood Control Board on an annual basis provides appropriate opportunity for regional coordination in the context of the developing Flood Management Plan in accordance with appropriate risk tolerance design, habitat restoration, water supply opportunities and beneficiary pays principles.

As stated above, these concepts will be reviewed further by the Central and South Delta Water Agency Boards and perhaps San Joaquin County Flood Control and may undergo some expansion and/or revision which we will keep you advised of as it occurs.